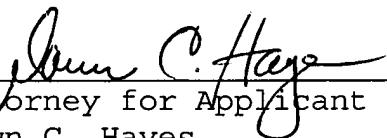


Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Marked-up Version of the Claims

63. (Amended) The quality control material of claim [61] 60, wherein an absorbance spectrum of said one or more substances is altered by adding a spectral modifier.

73. (Amended) A quality control material for use in a reagentless spectrophotometric apparatus, comprising, one or more substances that mimics an indicator of hemolysis, wherein said one or more substances are [selcted] selected from the group consisting of total Hb, oxy-Hb, "total Hb minus met-Hb," cyanmet-Hb, amaranth, acid fuchsin, basic fuchsin, ponceau S, chromotrope 2R, phenol red, crystal ponceau, methyl orange, a Hb-based blood substitute, oxy-Hb, carboxy-Hb, cyanmet-Hb, a polymer, and a [protein.] protein, and wherein said quality control material is exposed to atmospheric conditions.